

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP  
29 MECHANIC STREET  
WIND GAP, PA 18091  
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The Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Monday, May 5, 2014, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President George Hinton. In attendance were Councilmen: Dave Valley, Kerry Gassler, Tony Curcio, Joe Weaver and Dave Hess. Also in attendance were Mayor James Shoemaker, Borough Solicitor Ronold Karasek, Borough Engineer Brian Pysher and Borough Administrator Louise Firestone. Absent was Councilman Jon Faust.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Slate Belt Community Partnership (SBCP).

Jim Gloria, Director Totts Gap Art Institute, introduced Sharon Davis, who was providing Council with literature on the Slate Belt Community Partnership (the local Main Street Program - in Bangor and Pen Argyl). Jim stated that the Partnership is in attendance to ask Council to consider joining the SBCP regional program. The Slate Belt Community Partnership is a Main Street Program that works with volunteers to foster an improved image of our traditional downtown business districts. The SBCP follows the four point approach to downtown revitalization as established by the National Main Street Center of the National Trust for Historic Preservation: Community Marketing/Promotions, Design/Physical Improvements, Asset Enhancement/Economic Restructuring, and Organization. The SBCP is endorsed by the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) as a regional (multiple boroughs) Main Street Program. Bangor and Pen Argyl have joined the initiative and having been meeting since November 2013. The Main Street Programs must operate under a 501(c3) organization to enable tax deductible donations from the private sector. The SBCP is an initiative of 501(c3) Totts Gap Arts Institute. the partnership between the two organizations has enabled them to nurture the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of the community; to foster an improved atmosphere to attract visitors and new investment.

Kerry asked the cost of the program to the Borough for a year. Jim replied that the cost would be \$10,000 for the year - pro-rated for this year. George asked if the \$5,000 for 2014 could be paid in payments.

James Kresge, Bangor Borough Council, introduced himself and shared his enthusiasm of the program with those present. He explained that the SBCP is promoting the downtown areas as well as showing that the Slate Belt is a great place to live and raise a family. Bangor has several murals painted on buildings showing the heritage of the town and Pen Argyl has the wisdom walk throughout their Borough. A project currently underway, is returning a slate hoist that was made in Bangor and used in Pen Argyl is currently in Bethlehem. The SBCP is using resources to return the hoist to the Slate Belt without any money from Bangor Borough. The SBCP is using volunteers to commit supplies and expertise in making this project happen. Joe Weaver asked if the value received from the SBCP is less than, equal to or greater than what the investment would be to the borough. James replied that he does feel that the borough is getting every pennies worth as far as value. He feels the energy and dynamic of the program is a great reflection on the Slate Belt.

Sharon Davis, Manager SBCP, explained that the program can facilitate whatever Wind Gap wants as a community and utilize their volunteers to make it happen. Wind Gap has an identity that is different than Bangor or Pen Argyl as the gateway to the west. Wind Gap has the trailhead to the Appalachian Trail and that is something that the State wants Main Street programs to connect with in

small towns. The SBCP likes to include the children, they are the future of the Slate Belt, with art projects and cleanliness. Several local Wind Gap business owners have become involved because they believe that this is a great way to work together to promote this area.

Anthony, "Pies to Die for Cafe", spoke to Council explaining that when he was looking for a town for his business he wanted a location that would fulfill a community need. He envisioned residents coming into his Cafe for sit, eat a piece of pie and drink a cup of coffee and chitchat about current events. He is excited that the building will be the next building to have a mural painted on the side of the structure.

Mike Ortoski, Owner of the Blue Valley Times, board member SBCP, board member Totts Gap Art Institute. He explained that working with residents from Bangor and Pen Argyl he understands that people want a venue to go to and talk about the direction of the Slate Belt. Wind Gap will have two representatives from Council sitting on the board to share their ideas. It is important that the Slate Belt is represented by all the communities to show that the entire area is in support.

Joe asked how long the Borough would have to commit to SBCP. Jim replied that the State requires a five year commitment. There is training available for representatives to educate them on economics, demographics, and funding.

**On motion** by Kerry Gassler to join the Slate Belt Community Partnership and seconded by Dave Hess. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Sharon informed Council that they will need to appoint two representatives, either two from Council or one from Council and one other representative. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2014 in the Borough of Pen Argyl. The meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month.

2. Bob Matlock. Bob thanked Kerry, Brian Pysker and Chief Armitage in taking care of the garbage dump by his house.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**On motion** by Kerry Gassler to approve the meeting minutes of April 22, 2014 and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

## **APPROVAL OF EXPENSES**

**On motion** by Tony Curcio to approve the expenses for April 2014 in the amount of \$25,222.62 and seconded by Dave Hess. Roll call vote taken.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Ron Karasek reported that all the matters being handled by his law office for the Borough during the month of March are outlined in a report. The report includes the meetings attended as Borough Solicitor.

**Subdivision Matters:** N/A.

**Land Development Matters:** N/A.

**Zoning and Other Land Use Matters:** Receipt, Review and Administration of Report from Borough Engineer on Wood Street and Mountain Alley Parking and Preparation of First and Second Drafts of Borough Ordinance and Advertising Notices for No Parking along North Side of Wood Street and No Parking on Mountain Alley.

Receipt, Review and Administration of Correspondence from Applicant's Attorney, Computer Search for Northampton County Tax Parcel Identification Information (3 Parcels) and Legal Research on Real Estate Tax Refund Statute and Preparation of Comprehensive Status Correspondence to

County Solicitor, Plainfield Township Solicitor and Pen Argyl Area School District Solicitor and Receipt of Responsive Correspondence from those Solicitors re: Wind Gap Oil Storage, Inc. Request for Real Estate Tax Refund.

**Developments on Outstanding Litigation:** Preparation of Five Praecipes for Appearance and Five Praecipes for Satisfaction and Filing of Praecipes at Courthouse re: Payment of L. Torgerson's Municipal Claims.

**Court Decisions on Borough Cases:** N/A.

**Miscellaneous:**

Receipt, review and administration of correspondence and e-mails with Final Revisions to Slate Belt Regional Police Department Charter Agreement.

Preparation of Final Draft of Ordinance and Advertising Notices for Adoption of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department Charter Agreement - Borough Ordinance No. 484.

Receipt, Review and Administration of Request of Credit Report and Request re: Builders Door and Hardware, Inc.

Preparation of Monthly Preparation of Monthly Solicitor's Report.

Review various correspondence, e-mails, prepare letters and make and receive telephone calls.

**Outstanding Items:**

Home Occupation, Clear Site Triangle (and related) Zoning Ordinance Amendments.

Stop Sign Ordinance

Dog Park Ordinance

Fire Company Ordinance

Dentith storm water counterclaim (filed in response to Borough's injunction lawsuit and request for Borough's expenses) – no action taken and remains pending.

Ordinance for loitering, begging, and panhandling – pending but inactive.

Ordinance for reimbursement of equipment, materials and supplies in responding to environmental, hazardous, safety or rescue events (police, fire or both?) – pending but inactive.

Attorney Karasek reported that he received from Attorney Goudzousian provided the Charter Agreement that was signed by all three municipalities.

Last week Borough Engineer, Brian Pysher, provided the Wind Gap Borough Floodplain Ordinance which has to be adopted by July 16, 2014. He suggested to Council that a special meeting might need to be held in order to meet the deadline. The Borough must comply in order to maintain Floodplain Insurance protection and qualify for any FEMA and PEMA money. The ordinance must be approved by PA DCED and FEMA. He will move forward, with Council's approval, with a phone conference to Leslie Rhoades, as soon as possible to receive guidance for this ordinance.

George asked if there was any respond from Mr. Goffredo regarding the fence issue on his property. Attorney Karasek to follow-up with a phone call to Mr. Goffredo.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Brian Pysher reported on the progress at the new Municipal Building. All the units/equipment has been delivered to the building and the contractor, SuperHeat, has begun the work. Last week, they set all the units, ran all the air conditioning lines and measured all the ductwork and sent to Riley Supply to make the ductwork. Hopefully, the ductwork will be here Thursday or Friday this week so SuperHeat can continue their work of connecting the new ductwork to the existing ductwork. Sheetrock is ordered and scheduled to be delivered next Monday. Trevdan Building Supply will be delivering the insulation. Every framed wall and the ceiling between the Assembly Room and upstairs will all be insulated to act as a sound barrier. Nathan Pysher, Wind Gap Ambulance Corps, has been working with Cramer's regarding the layout for the kitchen. Brian is waiting on a third estimate for the

kitchen cabinets and countertop before placing the order this week. Nathan has picked out the appliances and they need to be ordered. Brian will be meeting with Labor and Industry, Bob Hebel, between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. tomorrow to have a final walk through inspection done before the walls are closed up. Brian stated that the sheetrock should be done upstairs next week and then L&I can do their inspection of the sheetrock.

George stated that this week's meeting will be held at the building on Thursday, May 8, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business before Council at this time.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Officer Worker. George asked Council for their input regarding their desired requirements for a part-time or full-time officer worker.

**On motion** by Tony Curcio to advertise for a part-time clerical person for a period of six (6) months and based on a 20 hour work week, with no benefits and a salary based on experience from \$8.00 to \$10.00 per hour and then review with the option of offering a full-time position after the six (6) months and seconded by Kerry Gassler. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

The job description will be reviewed for a clerical position. The position will be advertised and the interviewing committee will be Tony, George and Louise.

2. GIS - Kerry asked for an update on the GIS system. George replied that a meeting was held prior to John Maher leaving on vacation and it was decided that as soon as he returns from vacation he will get together with Rich, Brian and Ryan to teach them how to gather the information and load it into the computer.

3. 2003 Ford Crown Victoria. Joe Weaver explained that the high bidder for the old office car did not want the car. The highest bid was \$1,025, the second highest bidder went up to \$1,000 and dropped out, and third highest went up to was \$800 and dropped out. The car can be offered to the next highest bidder. The #1 bidder offered to reimburse the Borough if it must re-advertise the car for another auction.

**On motion** by Joe Weaver to offer a Second Chance on the 2003 Ford Crown Victoria car to the second highest bidder at \$1,000, if not, offer to third highest bidder at \$800 and seconded by Tony Curcio. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.

**On motion** by Tony Curcio to adjourn the meeting of May 5, 2014. Council agreed unanimously.

The meeting of May 5, 2014 adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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Louise Firestone, Borough Administrator